

# Bovine Tuberculosis UPDATE

Michigan



Michigan Department of Agriculture • Michigan Department of Natural Resources • Michigan Department of Community Health

## Progress Report

by **Bridget Patrick**

*Bovine TB Eradication Project  
Coordinator*

*USDA Veterinary Services conducts a TB Program review each year to evaluate the effectiveness of Michigan's eradication efforts.*

*These comprehensive assessments include reviews of herd testing/surveillance, control of animal movements, reducing risk of TB transmission from wildlife, and educational efforts to prevent bovine TB infection in humans.*

*While we have made significant progress, it would be a mistake to assume Michigan's battle with bovine TB is close to being won. The latest annual TB Program review (March 2007) made it clear the fate of livestock and wildlife TB eradication programs are linked, and it is not an option to maintain the status quo indefinitely.*

*Failure to progress threatens both Michigan's status and future federal funding.*

*MDA has placed Dr. John Tilden on special assignment to coordinate MDA's response to the USDA Program Review. We welcome Dr. Tilden's assistance with the TB project.*

-bkp

**Autumn 2007**

## Communications Update

**Matt Ankney**

Assistant Coordinator  
Bovine TB Eradication Project  
Michigan Department of Community Health

In an effort to reduce project expenses, future newsletters will be delivered electronically. To receive the newsletter via email, please contact MDCH at [ankneym1@michigan.gov](mailto:ankneym1@michigan.gov). The newsletters will also continue to be available on the [www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases) website.

If you do not have access to the Internet or email, please call MDCH at (517) 335-9970 to make other arrangements. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we make our outreach and education efforts more efficient.

## North Country Beef Producers Cooperative to Host TB Meeting

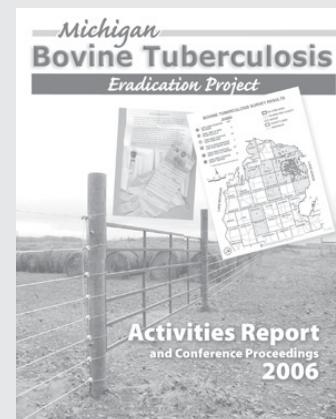
The bovine TB project partners plan to provide a program update at the October North Country Beef Producers' monthly meeting. Non-member dairy and beef producers are welcome to attend.

Date: October 25, 2007  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: MDA Atlanta Field Office

Please contact Beth Hall (989) 785-5616, if you would like to attend the meeting.

## 2006 Bovine TB Activities Report

Now available online



[www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases)  
(under the "Spotlight" heading)

# Interzone and Interstate Cattle Movement

## Dr. Steven L. Halstead

State Veterinarian and Animal Industry Division Director  
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Michigan cattle producers must obtain movement certificates to move cattle between zones (interzone) and must contact other animal health officials for interstate animal movement requirements to each particular state. All cattle must have an official Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) ear tag for movement from any premises in Michigan.

Michigan has “split state status” for bovine TB. The Upper Peninsula is designated as TB-free, the northern Lower Peninsula (where bovine TB is established in the deer and cattle) is the Modified Accredited Zone (MAZ), and, the southern Lower Peninsula is the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone (MAAZ).

A certificate showing TB testing status must accompany Lower Peninsula cattle if movement is to a different zone within Michigan. Cattle originating in the Upper Peninsula do not need a certificate for interzonal movement.

All Michigan cattle need a health certificate, obtained from a private practice veterinarian, to leave Michigan. Please contact the state of destination for all current movement requirements prior to any interstate cattle movement.

To obtain an interzonal movement certificate during normal business hours (7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays), MAAZ cattle producers may contact MDA's toll-free TB line at (866) 870-5136. MAZ cattle producers should call the MDA Atlanta regional office at (989) 785-5616. Cattle producers will need the following information before they call:

- Premises identification number (recently mailed to every known cattle owner in Michigan).
- Name and physical address of the destination of the cattle to be moved.
- Official RFID ear tag numbers of the animals to be moved.
- Age, gender, and breed of the cattle to be moved.

The TB test injection date, TB test chart number, and testing veterinarian for any cattle required to be tested are needed prior to movement. For animals originating from a TB accredited free herd, producers must provide the accredited herd number and expiration date of the accreditation.

## Freezer Beef

### Dr. Michael VanderKlok

Bovine TB Program Coordinator  
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Individuals raising “freezer beef” for family use in the MAZ must have an annual inventory evaluation and reconciliation conducted by MDA or USDA personnel. A “freezer beef” operation is defined as a herd of six or less cattle, with no breeding/calving cattle on the premises, and are not available for sale to others. All cattle purchased by an individual to be raised as “freezer beef” must come from a farm that complies with all identification, TB testing, and permitting or certification requirements applicable to the herd of origin.

## Metal Eartag Recall

### Kevin Kirk

Special Assistant to the Director  
Michigan Department of Agriculture

USDA has requested we recall the standard metal ear tags distributed during the statewide bovine TB whole-herd testing effort. These tags can be recognized by their silver color and the USDA shield. In an effort to ensure the metal tags are no longer used for cattle or other species, and to protect the reputation of producers, we ask that you take any of these tags with you the next time you visit the livestock saleyard. Saleyards will collect and return these tags to MDA. If you do not plan to sell animals through saleyard venues, please give your local MDA field veterinarian a call and make arrangements to drop off the tags.



Mandatory electronic ID for cattle moving off of premises became effective March 1, 2007. The critical factor of our bovine TB eradication program is the ability to rapidly respond to disease detection by using electronic animal ID. Electronic ID is a vital component in protecting Michigan's food supply. It gives MDA and USDA the ability to quickly trace where animals with TB lesions originated.

# Herd Reconciliation in the MAZ

## Dr. Jim Earl

Assistant Area Veterinarian in Charge  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services

As recommended by the recent federal program review, and required by the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), each cattle herd tested for bovine Tuberculosis (TB) by state or federal personnel in the Modified Accredited Zone will undergo annual inventory reconciliation.

Each herd tested by accredited fee-basis veterinarians in the Modified Accredited Zone will also undergo annual inventory reconciliation. This will be completed by state or federal personnel within 60 days following the whole herd test.

Inventory reconciliation is the process of accounting for any changes in herd population over time. Your personal inventory records should include cattle that were born or have died on the property, and cattle bought, sold, and sent to slaughter.

When your records do not match the database records, please be prepared to provide the accredited veterinarian with documentation explaining the change.

Any herds undergoing a first-time whole herd test (previously exempt terminal operations or herds of more than six animals which were formerly considered “freezer beef”) will undergo inventory reconciliation beginning with the second annual whole herd test.

The information obtained during the reconciliation includes:

- Herd owner name
- Current whole herd test date
- Number of animals reconciled
- Number of animals unaccounted for
- Producer’s reasons for unaccountable animals

Herd reconciliation is an important opportunity to demonstrate producer cooperation and to validate the current program’s effectiveness.

## Mackinac Bridge Restrictions

All livestock transportation equipment going north across the bridge will be required to stop for inspection. New road signs with further instructions will be posted on I-75, and roads leading out of Petoskey and Cheboygan, heading for the bridge.

## Hunter Safety

Hunters that harvest TB positive deer are encouraged to get a TB skin test. While the threat of infection from field dressing an infectious deer is relatively low, the safest measure is to have the hunter call the local health department or personal physician and arrange a visit.

## Agricultural Waste Disposal

MDA’s Environmental Stewardship Division has been asked to coordinate a work group to review Normal Agriculture Practices (NAP) and make recommendations on the disposal of agriculture waste in a zoonotic disease area. This review is in response to recent program review recommendations.

## Deer Check Stations

As we approach the fall season, it is important to remember the value of bringing harvested deer to the DNR check stations. Check stations are closed during weekends and state holidays unless otherwise noted. To locate a check station and determine hours of operation for your area, please visit the DNR website at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

## Terminal Operations

Citing the recent federal program review, terminal operations will no longer be allowed outside of the MAZ. Terminal operations within the MAZ will now require an annual whole herd test. While this may eliminate some current benefits to individual producers, these changes will help advance the MAAZ status to TB-free, which ultimately benefits everyone.

## Risk Mitigation

MDA, DNR, MDCH, and USDA will develop risk mitigation strategies for each cattle and bison producer in the MAZ. The development and implementation of these strategies is still in discussion, but producers in the MAZ can expect to be contacted within the next year for initial bio-security discussions.

## Michigan Bovine TB Eradication Project

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## Feeding and Baiting Regulations

### Dr. Stephen M. Schmitt

State Veterinarian  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The great efforts of the hunting community continue to be a vital component in the eradication project. Recent history has shown the economic impact of bovine TB on an area can be devastating. In a proactive effort to prevent the disease from becoming established in additional areas, we have set a policy review trigger point. Feeding and baiting regulations will be reviewed in any surveillance area surrounding the seven-county area in which three or more TB positive free ranging deer are found. The DNR will make recommendations to the Natural Resources Commission to ban feeding and baiting in surveillance areas where three or more positive deer are found. The surveillance areas are defined as follows: the southern sampling population will consist of deer taken from Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw and Roscommon counties, and, the western sampling population will consist of deer taken from Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet and Otsego counties.



***For more information about this newsletter or  
Michigan's Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Project please contact:***

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